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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE

PREPARATIONS FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (UNISPACE III) BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR UNISPACE III

Organizational matters relating to the holding of UNISPACE III

Report by the Secretariat

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INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 47/67 of 14 December 1992, recommended that Member States might discuss, during the following session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the possibility of holding a Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III). Since that recommendation was made, the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee have continued to consider the matter (see A/AC.105/662, annex I).

2. Having considered the work conducted in 1996 by the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Assembly, in its resolution 51/123 of 13 December 1996, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that a special session of the Committee, open to all States Members of the United Nations, should be convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna, preferably in 1999. In the same resolution, the Assembly also requested the Committee, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Office for Outer Space Affairs to act as the Preparatory Committee, Advisory Committee and the executive secretariat, respectively.

3. At their 1997 sessions, the Preparatory Committee and the Advisory Committee carried out their tasks as entrusted to them by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/123. The reports of the Preparatory and Advisory Committees contained their recommendations concerning the objectives, form, venue, date, participants, provisional annotated agenda and additional components of UNISPACE III; the preparation of the draft report of, and background papers for, UNISPACE III; the organization of regional preparatory meetings; the duration and pattern of meetings of the 1999 sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies; and financial aspects (see A/AC.105/672, annex II, paras. 13-23, and A/52/20,[1] paras.150-161).

4. Having considered the report of the Committee on its 1997 session,[1] the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, agreed that UNISPACE III should be convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999 as a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, open to all States Members of the United Nations. In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Preparatory and Advisory Committees and the executive secretariat to carry out their tasks in accordance with those recommendations made by the Preparatory Committee at its 1997 session.

5. In order to assist the Advisory Committee, the executive secretariat was requested by the Preparatory Committee, in paragraph 156 of the report on its 1997 session,[1] to prepare an indicative programme of work for UNISPACE III.

I. SCOPE OF THE PRESENT REPORT

6. The main part of the present report is divided into four sections. Section II covers organizational matters relating to the preparatory meetings for the Conference, including regional preparatory meetings. Section III is devoted to an indicative programme of work during the Conference, including suggestions for organizing additional components of the Conference. Section IV provides possible scenarios for the participation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as space-related industry in the Conference. Section V covers financial aspects of the Conference.

7. The organization of workshops, seminars, poster sessions, exhibitions and public evening lectures, covered in the subsection on additional components of the Conference under Section III, is based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee at its 1997 session (A/AC.105/672, annex II, paras. 13-23) and on information provided to the secretariat as of 1 December 1997 by the organizations interested in holding those events.

II. PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS, INCLUDING REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETINGS

8. The Preparatory Committee, in paragraph 153 of the report on its 1997 session,[1] agreed that as part of its programme of regular activities in 1998 and 1999, the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should organize regional preparatory meetings for the Conference. The General Assembly, in paragraph 25 of its resolution 52/56, noted with satisfaction that, in preparation for the Conference, Chile and Malaysia had offered to host United Nations regional meetings on space technology and applications for development for Latin America and the Caribbean and for Asia and the Pacific, respectively. The Assembly also noted that Tunisia had indicated its willingness, in principle, to host a similar regional meeting in Africa.

9. Following up the above-mentioned action by the Committee and the General Assembly, the Office for Outer Space Affairs, within the framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, began to organize the regional preparatory meetings for Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean in consultation with the Governments of Tunisia, Malaysia and Chile, respectively. As of 1 December 1997, the schedule of those regional preparatory meetings was as follows:

(a) Regional preparatory meeting for Africa: to be held in Tunisia in September 1998;

(b) Regional preparatory meeting for Asia and the Pacific: to be held in Malaysia in May 1998;

(c) Regional preparatory meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean: to be held in Chile in October 1998.

10. With regard to the schedule of work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at their 1999 sessions, including their work as the Preparatory and Advisory Committees for the Conference, the Subcommittee, at its 1997 session, recommended that the duration of the meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in 1999 should not exceed a total of 16 days. That recommendation was made on the understanding that the Conference would utilize the conference service

resources to be released by shortening the regular sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in 1998 and 1999. Accordingly, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would meet for eight days in February, and no more than three days would be scheduled for the session of the Committee to be held immediately prior to the Conference. The exact schedule would be confirmed by the Committee at its 1998 session, on the basis of progress made in the preparation for the Conference and the agreement to be reached at the 1998 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee regarding its programme of work for its 1999 session.

11. It is anticipated that pre-conference consultations, open to all States participating in the Conference, will be held on 18 July 1999 to adopt the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee on procedural and organizational matters, which would be presented by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee. Before the pre-conference consultations, the Preparatory Committee should reach agreement on recommendations to be made on all procedural and organizational matters to be dealt with by the Conference at the opening meeting, such as the composition of the bureau of the Conference, the distribution of officers of the bureau among the regional groups, the adoption of the rules of procedure, the adoption of the agenda and organization of work, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee, the election of officers of the committees and arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference.

III. INDICATIVE PROGRAMME AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK DURING THE CONFERENCE

A. Election of officers and bureau of the Conference

12. Considering that the Conference will be held as a special session of the Committee, the current bureau of the Committee, the term of which covers the period up to June 2000, could continue as members of the bureau of the Conference in their current functions. In addition to the Chairman, the First Vice-Chairman and the Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of the plenary, the bureau of the Conference may include the following seven officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of Committee I; Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of Committee II; and Chairman of a technical forum (see paragraph 27 below). The bureau of the Conference would therefore consist of 10 officers (see also paragraphs 17 and 19 below).

13. The additional seven officers, as indicated in paragraph 12 above, should be elected from among the representatives of the States participating in the Conference on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. Thus, two officers would be selected from each of the following regional groups: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and western Europe and other States.

14. The officers of the Conference should be elected by acclamation of the Conference. The regional groups should ensure that they will be in a position to make known their nominations for the offices of the Conference by the 1999 session of the Advisory Committee for consideration by the States members of the Committee. Consensus agreement on the entire composition of the bureau should be reached prior to the opening of the Conference.

B. Adoption of the rules of procedure

15. The Conference, at its opening meeting, should adopt a set of rules of procedure. Draft provisional rules of procedure will be prepared by the executive secretariat in time for the 1998 session of the Preparatory Committee. In accordance with the normal practice of United Nations conferences, it is recommended that the Preparatory Committee, at its 1998 session, agree on the provisional rules of procedure for approval by the General Assembly at its 1998 session.

C. Adoption of the agenda

16. The provisional agenda was endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 24 of its resolution 52/56 as contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on its 1997 session (A/AC.105/672, annex II). The Advisory Committee at its 1999 session will have before it a fully annotated provisional agenda that will include additional information on the agenda items, such as relevant and available documentation for substantive items and references to rules of procedure, as well as a detailed indicative schedule of meetings and events to be held during the Conference period, on the basis of the recommendations to be made at the 1998 sessions of the Preparatory and Advisory Committees.

D. Organization of work

1. Establishment of main committees

17. In accordance with the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee, which were subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 24 of its resolution 52/56, the Conference could organize its work around a plenary and two main committees: Committee I and Committee II.

18. As the work of those two main committees would be devoted to conducting discussions on substantive agenda items (see the provisional agenda contained in annex II of document A/AC.105/672), it is suggested that an informal drafting group should be established to finalize a set of recommendations and a plan of action to be adopted by the Conference.

19. The drafting group could be chaired by the Rapporteur of the plenary, who would be responsible for presenting the full draft report of UNISPACE III to the Conference. In order to ensure the efficiency of the work of the drafting group, the size of the group should be limited. Taking into account the practice followed by United Nations conferences, the drafting group would include two representatives from each regional group. As this would be an informal group, the Rapporteur could invite additional representatives of Member States in order to enhance the work of the drafting group, which would conduct its work in closed meetings.

2. Allocation of items

20. It is proposed that items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 of the provisional agenda, as contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on its 1997 session, should be considered in plenary. The Advisory Committee, at its 1997 session, recommended that the Conference should establish Committee I to deal with items 7 (a) and 7 (b) and Committee II with items 7 (c), 7 (d) and 7 (e). Activities related to agenda item 8, on additional components of UNISPACE III, would be organized by interested organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations as part of the Conference (see also paragraphs 29 to 38 below).

21. The number of specific issues to be discussed in accordance with the allocation of substantive items to Committees I and II indicated above is likely to result in the need for Committee I to hold many more meetings than the other bodies of the Conference. In order to utilize the conference service resources in a more effective and balanced manner and to ensure that sufficient time be allocated to the consideration of each substantive item, the Advisory Committee, at its 1998 session, might consider an alternative scenario suggested in paragraphs 22 and 23 below.

*3. Alternative scenario for the allocation of substantive agenda items**

22. Substantive agenda items 7 (a) to 7 (e) could be considered in plenary meetings, in Committee I and in Committee II. The plenary might address issues of general concern in various fields of space science and technology and their applications. The work of Committee I could focus on issues relating to the scientific knowledge of Earth and its environment and to related space technology applications. Committee II could cover issues relating to other aspects of space science and technology and their applications. The allocation of substantive items could be as follows:

(a) Plenary: 7 (c), 7 (d) and 7 (e);
(b) Committee I: 7 (a) and 7 (b) (i);
(c) Committee II: 7 (b) (ii) to 7 (b) (iv).

23. While the above scenario would allow for a more balanced distribution of work between Committees I and II, technical issues are likely to dominate discussions in both Committees. Consideration in the plenary of items 7 (c), 7 (d) and 7 (e) might be scheduled towards the end of the first and the beginning of the second week of the Conference in order to have discussions based on the work of Committees I and II relating to those items.

4. General statements by participating States and by international organizations

24. General statements would be made by States Members of the United Nations under item 6 of the provisional agenda, as contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on its 1997 session, and may take place during the first half of the Conference. In accordance with recommendations of the Advisory Committee at its 1997 session, statements in the plenary should not exceed 10 minutes, it being understood that full-length statements may be circulated in writing. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations invited to the Conference should submit their statements in writing to the plenary, if they so wish. Following the normal practice of United Nations conferences, it is proposed that as far as possible, delegations should take the floor no more than once during the consideration of an item.

5. Organization of meetings

25. The resources available to the Conference permit the holding of a maximum of two simultaneous meetings, with interpretation services, in the morning and an equal number in the afternoon, including working groups, informal consultations and regional group meetings held in place of formal meetings.

26. Each Committee may set up subsidiary bodies, to the extent permitted by conference service facilities available at the Conference site.

27. Meetings should normally be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. In order to ensure the most efficient use of available resources, all meetings should start promptly at the scheduled time.

6. Technical presentations

28. In order to enhance discussions on substantive agenda items, the Conference should have technical presentations by States Members of the United Nations as well as by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and space-related industry invited to the Conference.

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*For ease of reference, a list of subitems of substantive agenda items is contained in annex I.

29. In order to maximize the benefits from the technical presentations and to preserve sufficient time for discussions, a technical forum could be established as a technical body of the Conference, which would meet parallel to the plenary and Committees I and II. The technical presentations would be scheduled, as far as possible, at least one meeting prior to the consideration of the relevant agenda item in plenary or in Committee I or II.

30. In anticipation of a large number of presentations to be made during the Conference and the limited time available for the presentations, it is suggested that requests to make presentations should be forwarded to the executive secretariat preferably by 31 May 1999, but no later than the beginning of the 1999 session of the Preparatory Committee, in order to allow the secretariat to schedule the presentations and make the necessary technical arrangements prior to the opening of the Conference.

7. Additional components of the Conference

31. In accordance with the provisional agenda endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/56 as contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on its 1997 session, the Conference would include additional components in the form of workshops and seminars, poster sessions, public evening lectures and an exhibition.

(a) Workshops and seminars

32. The Advisory Committee, at its 1997 session, proposed the organization of workshops that would fit into the agreed structure on topics consistent with the objectives of UNISPACE III and provided the following indicative list of topics: space law; environment (and remote sensing); information and mobility (communications); science and education (including astronomy); generic and enabling space technologies; and preservation of the space environment (space debris).

33. The Advisory Committee might consider whether a limited number of substantive agenda items could be further discussed in workshops that would be held as an integral part of the work of the Conference. The topics of such workshops should be identified by the Advisory Committee and approved by the Preparatory Committee at their 1998 sessions.

34. Pursuant to the request by the Preparatory Committee at its 1997 session, as contained in paragraph 154 of its report,[1] the executive secretariat invited intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and regional commissions with space activities to identify the agenda items and Conference activities, including workshops, through which they could make contributions to achieving the objectives of the Conference. The number of these workshops would be limited by the availability of conference facilities and other logistical support required. To date, a number of organizations have indicated interest in organizing or participating in the workshops to be held during the Conference. The organizations and the proposed topics of the workshops are as follows:

Topic of the workshop	*Interested organizations*
Environment (and remote sensing)	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
Information society and mobility (communications)	Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) International Civil Aviation Organization International Maritime Organization

Science and education (including astronomy)	International Astronomical Union (IAU)
Preservation of the space environment	IAU
Contribution of space techniques in exploring the universe	Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)
Recent progress in and future plans for exploration of the solar system	COSPAR
Information and communications technologies in Africa	ECA
Space law	International Institute of Space Law

35. The executive secretariat will pursue the indications of interest received, coordinate with organizations that have shown interest in organizing events on similar topics, and prepare an updated list of events, specifying those with firm commitments, for approval by the Preparatory Committee. The Advisory Committee at its 1999 session will be provided with a detailed schedule of workshops, including additional offers that may have been received by the executive secretariat in line with the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee at its 1997 session.

36. In addition to the above-mentioned workshops, seminars and symposia, the executive secretariat has received indications that the following events may be organized prior to UNISPACE III:

(a) Workshop on international space cooperation to be organized by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) in cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs. This event would be one of the AIAA series of workshops and cover such topics as the participation of industry in UNISPACE III, the use of space technology in disaster-related applications and education;

(b) Space Agency Forum Focus Group meeting on UNISPACE III, to be held from 19 to 20 May 1998 at Berlin, Germany;

(c) International Satellite System for Search and Rescue (COSPAS-SARSAT) Users Seminar, to be held from 14 to 16 July 1999 at the site of the Conference;

(d) United Nations/International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Symposium on Education, to be held in late 1998 or early 1999;

(e) United Nations/European Space Agency Workshop on World Space Observatory, to be held in early 1999.

37. The above-mentioned and other events to be held prior to UNISPACE III on topics consistent with the objectives of the Conference would promote awareness of the Conference and enrich its work. The executive secretariat will keep the Preparatory and Advisory Committees informed of additional proposals received from space-related organizations.

(b) Poster sessions

38. Poster sessions could address specific topics that are relevant to the objectives of UNISPACE III but not necessarily directly related to substantive agenda items. The poster sessions would be organized for the benefit of participants in the Conference and the general public at the location of the space exhibition, at the Austria Center. Interested space agencies, international organizations and other entities should contact the executive secretariat at their earliest convenience, but no later than 30 April 1999, in order to allow sufficient time for preparation of the poster sessions.

(c) Space exhibition

39. The space exhibition will be held during the first week of the Conference at the Austria Center. The executive secretariat is seeking the assistance of AIAA to coordinate the organization of the space exhibition. The Advisory Committee, at its 1998 session, will be briefed by a representative of AIAA on the organization of the space exhibition.

(d) Public evening lectures

40. Public evening lectures, open to participants in the Conference and the general public, would be held after 6 p.m. The lectures would be given in the languages spoken by the invited speakers. Interpretation services in any of the official languages of the United Nations and German, the local language at the Conference site, could be arranged by the executive secretariat if the associated costs are defrayed by voluntary contributions from interested parties. In order to make such arrangements, the executive secretariat should be notified of the availability of financial resources by 28 February 1999.

8. Documentation

(a) Reports of the Conference and its subsidiary bodies

41. Taking into account the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, the report of the Conference will include a brief summary of the proceedings in plenary, an account of the work of Committees I and II and the text of decisions of the Conference, taken in plenary on the basis of the recommendations of the committees. In accordance with the request by the Preparatory Committee at its 1997 session, contained in paragraph 157 of its report, the executive secretariat will prepare the substantive parts of the draft versions of the report of the Conference, including a plan of action, to be considered by the Advisory and Preparatory Committees at their 1998 and 1999 sessions and finalized prior to the Conference.

42. All draft versions of the report of the Conference and its subsidiary bodies to be issued during the Conference, as well as final documents of the Conference for submission to the General Assembly, will be translated and issued in all official languages of the United Nations.

(b) Other in-session documentation

43. In addition to the draft reports of the Conference and its subsidiary bodies, in-session documentation includes the working papers submitted by Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and conference room papers prepared by the executive secretariat. The executive secretariat will ensure that working papers submitted by States Members of the United Nations by 1 June 1999 are translated and issued in all official languages of the United Nations in time for consideration by the Conference. Such a schedule would allow the secretariat to accomplish this task within existing resources.

(c) Pre-session documentation

44. Pursuant to the agreement of the Preparatory Committee at its 1997 session, as contained in paragraph 152 of its report,[1] background papers on the issues listed in document A/AC.105/1997/CRP.4/Rev.2 are being prepared by the executive secretariat. All the background papers are scheduled to be issued by August 1998 in all official languages of the United Nations. The majority of the background papers are expected to be available in time for the 1998 session of the Preparatory Committee.

45. The General Assembly, in its resolution 52/56, paragraph 26, invited Member States to submit their national papers for UNISPACE III. The national papers should be accompanied by a one- or two-page abstract in one of the official languages of the United Nations. The abstracts will be translated and issued in all official languages. The national papers should be submitted to the executive secretariat in a sufficient number of copies for distribution to the Conference. In order to ensure their timely circulation, the national papers together with their abstracts should be submitted to the executive secretariat before 1 April 1999.

46. Interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations invited to the Conference may also submit their papers, which will be issued in the languages of original submission. Those papers should be submitted to the executive secretariat in a sufficient number of copies for distribution to the Conference.

E. Credentials of representatives to the Conference: appointment of members of the Credentials Committee

47. In accordance with the practice of the United Nations, a credentials committee consisting of nine members should be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition will be based on the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fifty-third session.

IV. PARTICIPATION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INDUSTRY

48. The General Assembly, in paragraph 26 of its resolution 52/56, encouraged organizations within the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with space activities, as well as space-related industries, to contribute actively to achieving the objectives of UNISPACE III.

49. The Preparatory Committee agreed at its 1997 session that the Advisory Committee, at its 1998 session, should give further consideration to how private industry should be involved in the work of UNISPACE III (paragraph 159 of the report of the Preparatory Committee at its 1997 session).

50. One way in which invited international organizations and space industry could contribute actively to achieving the objectives of UNISPACE III is to participate in organizing the additional components of the Conference, discussed in paragraphs 29 to 38 above. With regard to their participation in the main work of the Conference, such as consideration of substantive agenda items and preparation of the report of the Conference, including the plan of action, possible scenarios are suggested in paragraphs 49 to 55 below for consideration by the Advisory Committee at its 1998 session.

A. Participation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

51. The intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations invited to participate in the Conference may also circulate papers in plenary and in Committees I and II during their consideration of substantive agenda items, under items 7(a) to 7(e) of the provisional agenda (A/AC.105/172, annex II). Time permitting, those

organizations could also make statements on such items and participate in the discussions of Committees I and II.

B. Participation of space-related industry

52. Industry will be invited to participate in the activities organized within the framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications prior to the Conference to promote awareness of the Conference. The executive secretariat will also seek co-sponsors to organize other activities prior to the Conference to further promote such awareness, with a view to identifying the thematic areas in which space-related industry might be interested in participating in the conference.

53. Member States are urged to bring to the attention of their industries the unique opportunities for them to participate in both the work of the Conference and the above-mentioned activities organized prior to the Conference. Member States are invited to assist the executive secretariat in establishing contacts with interested representatives of their industries.

54. Member States may wish to include one or more representatives of industry in their official delegations. It should be noted that except for overflow arrangements, the limited seating will be provided for delegations in plenary and committee meetings.

55. In order to ensure greater participation and equal opportunity for industry representatives to contribute to the main work of the Conference and in view of the limited time available for statements to be made in plenary and committee meetings, a space-industry round table may be organized during the first week of the Conference. Such a round table could be attended by all representatives of space industry, invited by their respective Governments, to express their views on substantive agenda items.

56. The purpose of holding such a space-industry round table would be to provide space industry with opportunities to suggest scenarios designed to forge a practical, mutually beneficial, dynamic and sustained working relationship between Member States, space-related industry, space-related institutions and the United Nations for the successful implementation of the recommendations of the Conference, with a view to: developing planning and policy-making procedures that facilitate partnerships and cooperation between governments, at all levels, and industry; and facilitating efforts of business enterprises to pursue investment and other activities that can contribute to the utilization of space technology to solve global problems. The work of the space-industry round table may include identifying not only application areas in which industry could expand its activities, but also actions and policies that would create a positive enabling environment to encourage the participation of industry in providing space technology and applying it to the solution of global problems.

57. In order to facilitate the discussions of the round table, an industry representative would chair the proceedings and present the results of the discussions in a plenary meeting for consideration by the Conference in preparing its plan of action.

V. FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE

58. The General Assembly, in paragraph 27 of its resolution 52/56, agreed that in order to service UNISPACE III, to the extent feasible, within existing resources, the level of conference-servicing resources available to the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the biennium 1998-1999 should remain at the same level as for the biennium 1996-1997.

59. In order to minimize the cost of the Conference while taking into account the recommendations of the Advisory Committee concerning the organization of the Conference and its associated activities, every effort will be made by the executive secretariat to limit the use of the Austria Center by utilizing to the full extent the facilities available at the United Nations Office at Vienna. Nevertheless, the anticipated large number of participants will require the use of the Austria Center, implying a nominal additional cost particularly concerning the transfer of office equipment, security services and some conference services such as clerical assistance during the Conference.

Notes

[1]*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/52/20).

Annex I

LIST OF SUBITEMS OF SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda item	*Title*
7 (a)	Status of the scientific knowledge of Earth and its environment:
	(i) Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
	(ii) Report of the United Nations Environment Programme;
	(iii) Report of the World Meteorological Organization;
	(iv) Reports of other relevant intergovernmental organizations;
	(v) Reports of international organizations, programmes and initiatives;
7 (b)	Status and applications of space science and technology:
	(i) The environment and natural resources and remote sensing:
	a. Disaster preparation, warning and mitigation;
	b. Environmental hazard detection and mitigation;
	c. Coastal degradation/management;
	d. Seasonal-to-annual climate prediction;
	e. Agricultural enhancements;
	f. Resource management and planning;
	g. Freshwater management;
	h. Global health, including disease vectors, mitigation and prevention;
	i. Other subjects to be identified;
	(ii) Navigation and precise location systems:
	a. Availability of services;
	b. Enhanced capability;
	c. Emerging applications;

Agenda item	*Title*
	(iii) Review of space communications and applications:
	a. Examining and promoting cooperation in the planning, design, operation and utilization of satellite communication and broadcasting systems;
	b. Examining the uses of mobile satellite communications and other new technologies, including low-cost, lightweight satellites in non-geostationary orbits (lightsats);
	c. Examining other uses of satellite-based systems, notably for tele-education, telemedicine, family welfare and emergency communications;
	d. Examining the technical aspects of transnational satellite direct broadcasting;
	(iv) Basic space science and secondary applications of space technology:
	a. Assessment of basic space science and their benefits;
	b. Potential uses of space for manufacturing, specialized and/or unique products and materials;
	c. Industrial and commercial applications of spin-offs from space technologies;
7 (c)	Information needs and the global approach:
	(i) Research needs;
	(ii) Applications needs;
	(iii) Integration of multi-source data through the use of geographic information systems;
7 (d)	Promotion of international cooperation;
7 (e)	Economic and societal benefits:
	(i) Ways and means of increasing the economic efficiency of space technology and its applications;
	(ii) Promotion of the commercial benefits of space activities:
	a. Design, development and use of mini- and micro-satellites for space research;
	b. Reliable and affordable access to space, including the case of human space flight;
	(iii) Education and training.

Annex II

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF PRE-CONFERENCE WORK AND ACTIVITIES

Date	*Work or activity*	*Responsible parties*	*Relevant paragraph in the present report*
9-20 February 1998	1998 session of the Advisory Committee	Advisory Committee and the executive secretariat	-
May 1998	Regional preparatory meeting in Asia and the Pacific, to be held in Malaysia	Malaysia, other countries of the region and the executive secretariat	9
3-12 June 1998	1998 session of the Preparatory Committee	Preparatory Committee and the executive secretariat	-
August 1998	Distribution of all background papers	Executive secretariat	44
September 1998	Regional preparatory meeting in Africa, to be held in Tunisia	Tunisia, other countries of the region and the executive secretariat	9
October 1998	Regional preparatory meeting in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Chile	Chile, other countries of the region and the executive secretariat	9
February 1999[a]	1999 session of the Advisory Committee	Advisory Committee and the executive secretariat	10
28 February 1999	Indication of intention to provide financial resources for interpretation services for the public evening lectures	Interested participants in the Conference	40
1 April 1999	Submission of national papers	Member States	45
30 April 1999	Indication of interest in participating in poster sessions	Space agencies, international organizations and other enti-ties invited to the Conference	38
1 June 1999	Submission of pre-conference working papers	Member States	43
31 May 1999	Requests to make technical presentations	Member States as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and industry invited to the Conference	30
July 1999[a]	1999 session of the Preparatory Committee	Preparatory Committee and the executive secretariat	10

Date	*Work or activity*	*Responsible parties*	*Relevant paragraph in the present report*
18 July 1999	Pre-conference consultations	All States participating in the Conference	11
19-30 July 1999	Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	All participants in the Conference and the executive secretariat	4

[a]The schedule of the 1999 sessions of the Advisory and Preparatory Committees will be considered and confirmed at their 1998 sessions.